ZIKR IN THE MASJID

The following is an incident which took place during the period of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood(R.A.), who was appointed by Hadhrat Umar(R.A.) as teacher of Quraan, Muhaddith(traditionist) and Mufti at Kufa. During his time, certain people started a new practice. Before Fajr Salaat, when people sat in the Masjid awaiting the Jamaat to form, they would all sit around a heap of gravel and one of them would ask the others to recite *"Allaahu Akbar"* a hundred times which they all did. Then he would ask them to recite *"Laa ilaaha illallaah"* and then *"Alhamdulillaah"* hundred times each, and they all would do so.
Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood(RA) was informed of this practice. When he inquired about the reason for this, they replied that they were reciting Allaah's praises using the gravel to count them. He said:-
"Instead of counting Allaah's praises, count your own sins and evils. There is no need to count Allaah's praises. I guarantee that Allaah will not waste any of your good works and there is no need to count them.
Having said that, he exclaimed sorrowfully :-

> "O Ummat of Muhammed! Alas! How fast approaches your doom! So many companions of your Nabi are still living. The clothes of your Nabi have not yet aged, his utensils are still intact and you have already started such things?. I swear by Allaah, in Whose Hands lay my life, that either you have adopted a Deen which is more instructive than the Deen brought to you by Muhammed or you are opening the gates of misguidance."

They explained:-

> "Our motive is only the achievement of good."

Ibne Mas'ood(RA) said

> "Many people say that their motive is purely good, that they intend only good, and yet goodness and beneficence does not accrue to them. Rasulullaah (S.A.W.) told us that many people would read the Qur'aan but the Qur'aan would not be pressed beyond their collar bones. i.e. neither the reading of the Qur'aan will affect their hearts nor will Allaah accept it, because this reading of the Qur'aan will be according to their own desire and not the desire of Allaah and His Rasul. They will not be worshippers of Allaah but worshippers of their own reason and the desire of their hearts."

Thus displeased with them, Ibne Mas'ood(RA) went away from there. The narrator reports :-

> "We saw these people join hands with the Kharijites and when the Kharijites fought with us, they were fighting against us."
> [Izalatul Khifa, Vol 1 chapters v and vi pg 130]

In one tradition it is related that Ibne Mas'ood(RA) came to know that certain people sat in the Masjid after the Maghrib Salaat. One of them would ask the others to recite Subhaanalllaah, Alhamdulillaah and Allaahu Akbar, each in a specified number ,which they all did. He went there and seeing this method of theirs he said on oath:-
"No doubt you have been involved in a very dark innovation, or have exceeded the Nabi's companions in knowledge". He then drove them out of the Masjid.
[Al a'itesam,Vol 1 pg 165. Majlis ul Akbar, majlis 18 pg 125]

"Some Ulema have clearly stated that raising one's voice in the Masjid, even if it be for Zikr is Haraam(fobidden).
[MIRQAAT ALA MISHKAAT vOL 2 P 470]

It has been written in Shaami that Zikr is only allowed when it does not disturb anyone who is praying, sleeping due to necessity, or reading the Qur'aan. [Shaami Vol 1 p 618